Brandes Illuminates Goethe's Ideals, Especially the Character of Faust

Great Scandinavian Critic's Latest Work Rivals His Analysis of Shakespeare

By JULIUS MORITZEN.

N "Wolfgang Goethe," recently published in Danish in Copenhagen, Georg Brandes once more isplays that craftsmanship which placed his William Shakespeare in the forefront of works about the English

it is especially in the chapters on Faust that Brandes illuminates the Goethe ideal. "With Faust, dating from 1775," writes Brandes, "Goethe reaches an altitude as poet which inscribes his name alongside the greatest men on the globe. These one hundred pages contain a luxurious mass of feeling, wit, fantasy and common sense; such abounding melody and so superior an art in the sketching of three very human and yet symbolical figures that all criticism of lesser things dissolves itself in devotionlike admiration. This is written for all time. So long as the German language is understood it cannot be forgotten."

As other Goethe biographers before him. Brandes shows what a mass of writings stood to the credit of the poet before the Faust idea struck him as ne approached his twenty-fifth year. The start of Faust, according to Brandes, was as follows:

"The young Wolfgang Goethe wrote out a dramatic fragment, the idea for which appears to have come to him at the close of 1773, and which he elaborated between October, 1774, and the eginning of 1775, so far as it concerned the larger part, and during the late summer and the fall of 1775 as it pertained to the lesser half. hen left the writing as it was until 1788, during his second stay in llome, he once more took hold and d to possess himself of the spirit and atmosphere that surrounded the

ab, shed it in 1790 as a 'Fragment.' Nevertheless," declares Dr. Brandes that he prepared in the fall of 1775 was, however careless its treatment, e finest poetry written on this earth luring the last 180 years; a poetry

naterial in the younger days. He first

himself never surpassed." Brandes says that were one to seek reason why these pages are like asbestos, to be destroyed neither by fire nor water nor time, the reason ld be based upon the fact that in "Faust" Goethe attains to and penetates the purely elementary in human He here defines love and entiment as these qualities first reyeal themselves in the life of a young woman, inseparable as they are in their eternal simplicity, yet immovable and strong as granite rock. The contrasting figure is man the investigator: one who thirsts after all encompassing knowledge; who wants to learn origin of existence, the power of o bind and hold him prisoner. Brandes writes that it was in Leip-

sic while a young student that Goethe became acquainted with Auerbach's the tone paintings which tell about the joureys and adventures of Faust and Mephistopheles. In Frankfort, where he hesitated between the pious teachings of Fraulein von Kettenberg and the incredulity of the period due to the himself with alchemy and cabalistics. He had even tried his hand at being magician. But it was his stay in Strassburg that proved decisive.

It was here that the suffering Herder supplied him with the outline to Faust. No one Goethe knew had been the student like Herder, no one approached him as genius, he thought. Herder's self-esteem was beyond In addition, the constant measure. satire and sarcasm as employed by Herder furnished Goethe the clue to his Mephistopheles, the sketching being made more complete later under influence of Merck.

The Gretchen ideal Goethe obtained from Friederike, but Gretchen's name was a transplantation, referring to the young girl with whom the fifteen-yearold boy had been in love.

'In 'The Italian Journey,' " writes Brandes, "Goethe tells us, under date of March 1, 1788, about his reflections over the last three volumes of his collected works. He has laid the plan to his Faust and thinks this undertaking

promises success.
"'Of course,' he says, 'it is a different matter to write the piece now than fifteen years earlier,' but he believes he has recovered the lost thread: Even as concern; the tone of the whole, I console myself. I have already written a new scene, and should I smoke the paper I am sure no one could tell its difference from the old Since my long rest and isolation I have been brought back to my former condition, and I am struck with the fact that I am my own self and that my consciousness is but little affected by years and events,' "It is remarkable how Goethe deceived himself. Neither the spirit nor the tone of the scenes that the poet added to the older sketches while in taly resembles the latter, that he

"There is, first, the scene in the witch's kitchen, in which the magic drink causes Faust's rejuvenation, something never thought of originally. • • • There is a very curious start with Mephistopheles's rational explanation of a possible re-

gaining of youth. "There is a certain struggle between all this ghostlike material and all the fairy creatures appearing in the witch's kitchen; the talking felines of both sexes, and then Mephistopheles's answer to Faust's query whether nature and art have no better means rid him of thirty years than an old weman's foolish magic. He anawers. Yes, of course, if you so desire, you need neither doctor nor sornor money. Just take a pick and spade, dig up the soil, fertilize it and live simply: that is the est remedy to make you younger.' It mly when Faust doesn't care to the spade in hand that Mephis-

below turns to the witch. When the witch then arrives and



Goethe, apostle of the ideal, of sentiment and of liberty.

the utmost importance to the fact that "Faust" is exactly what it is because heathen women and children.

ment, on the completion of 'Herman stition, and he allowed his Faust and after the eter and Dorothea,' in the year 1797, reand Dorothea,' in the year 1797, renewed work on his most fruitful subject. He aimed to lift it up and permeate it symbolically by giving it a

meate it symbolically by giving it a

meate it symbolically by giving it a

pressions that plainly show that the southland amid shorrence for that which religiously lover, the striving of the poet, the surroundings that page all that one more showed his surroundings that page all that one more and more surroundings that made all that op- makes denial of nature's power. There searcher's quest after knowledge, the more and more as the years went by, posed nature take the guise of superis in this cantata for various voices a
stition that only belonged in the land
of mist."

searcher's quest after knowledge, the loneliness of the genius, man's experiment of the periment of the perime Georg Brandes appears to attach new worship of God, whose priests and throughout it the unforgettable has he utmost importance to the fact that followers are accused of slaughtering been attained.

drawers could be placed to be filled.

"A short time before he had writ
"A short tim

perb craftsmanship obtains full sway certain facts as follows: in his description of the spectral do-ings in the spring night. Both Meph-declarations to Eckerman and others that both artistically and logically in his younger days he considered they belonged to that picture of the what we now term the first part of meant to paint.

extraneous material, such as personalities against whom the poet held resentment, and the critic is especially

"If in the 'Roman Flerger' Goethe severe in his faultfinding in that direction where Goethe mars the strikno other apparent purpose than to hit back at some of his contemporary antagonists.

for the public," writes Brandes. "A considerable number appreciated its from anything that went before or conjures up from the nether world the anything to come,' and he expressed the opinion that Goethe was to the world of poetry what Napoleon was to Helena, and makes her his mistress. the world of politics.

"Jean Paul forgot the injury he had "Jean Paul forgot the injury he and slight conceit of the Renaissance period to Goethe! How this Helena became greeted him in 'Faust' as a 'posthu-mous Shakespeare.' Rahel Varnagen. who was one of the first to understand Goethe's merit, likewise appreciated 'Faust' to the full. Schelling designated the work as 'the most distinctive poem of the Germans.' It was especially the romantic school which sonality represented the ideal for the took it upon itself to glorify and interpret this work in that 'Faust' stood terpret this work in that rather a And somewhat before he gathers to-before this school as the type for a before this school as the type for a gether all his power in returning to romantic tragedy, and because of Faust he produces in 1825-26 the after him, compared Goethe to Dante Alighieri.

In our days, then, the work has gained an importance related to that was later eliminated. of the divine comedy in the Middle Ages. All that power which impelled Goethe throughout his entire life here speaks out, ascends and descends and lacking in one important faculty. afraid, it is here he gives vent to ex- advance of Christianity. It is a poem 'hand each other the golden pails.' old German heathenism against the gether in this work. Round about and never known and caused him to unfold

"Faust" is exactly what it is because written at various periods with considerable intervals between. The second part of 'Faust' is not a far different one when he wrote 'Wal-ond volume of his "Wolfgang Goethe" purgisnacht' in 'Faust.' Since he made harmony when after all it is so rich harmony when after a ond volume of his "Wolfgang Goethe" purgisnacht in 'Faust.' Since he made takes up the subject of "Faust" as the mainspring to the poet's activity.

"Urged on by Schiller," Brandes

"Urged on by Schiller," Brandes says, "the author of the Faust frag- he accepted the Bloksbjerg super- after the eternal in knowledge, enjoy- one as Titian's style in his old age

secret contents. Goethe brings before this mortal a young woman who attracts and fascinates, and yet fails to bind and hold him prisoner.

Indeed it symbolically by giving it a cold and young, in great numbers. Here mighty pedestal upon which it could the landscape painting is wonderful. The verses, serious as well as humoraccustomed to fully understand, has for more than a century failed to distother hand, he also began to undo this slowly gathered context in their phonetic power.

define the first time before he had written before he had written

his sentiments as humanitarian, as guishing the two parts of "Faus citizens of the world."

On the difference that exists Brand Brandes declares that Goethe's su-has much to say, strongly emphasizing

istopheles and the witches con-stantly use very coarse expressions, it is true, but the Danish writer affirms half a century at least, it appears that world and existence that "Faust" was 'Faust' as a whole by itself. It is not until the years 1797-1801 that the plan Brandes, however, finds considerable dawns for such a continuation. There objection to the introduction of much is nothing in the original labor on the

"If in the 'Roman Elegies' Goethe gave his Italian woman character the rection where Goethe mars the strik-ing scene with Gretchen in prison by inserting a variegated versification for no other apparent purpose than to hit tress with a name still more celebrated in olden days. This was the figure that he wished to supply his rejuve-"It was not until 1808 that the com- Gothic hero, Faust, to reach his true nated Faust. To be completed the plete first part of 'Faust' was ready development, his cultural height, like "A Goethe himself had to be joined to value. Wieland admired 'this gro-tesquely genial tragedy so different tion read the German tradiantiquity. Already here Marlowe, the tion gave him the clue. Faust then woman who is the personification of antiquity's understanding of beauty,

"Of what importance was not this slight conceit of the Renaissance period symbolical for his idealism developed throughout a generation. When Gretchen, the little Gothic girl, was dead her place could be taken worthily only by the very queen of beauty of the old Hellas, one who in her persake of which Goethe now stood alone but to which he would remain true. And somewhat before he gathers tothird act of the poem and stamps it as a complete whole with the very significant title of Helena, and which

"Some critics who, while possessing important qualifications for their task have at the same time been have specified Goethe's lack of "What difference does it then make his new lyric style. . . . points to his youth, or as Beethoven's "The more developed the reader the earlier symphony leads back to the

raise itself, and he perfected what was needed in its ensemble. On the other hand, he also began to undo this slowly gathered context in that he quite carelessly split the totality of the tone by wilful insertions. Unfortunately, at a certain period he sas great treasure chest in which as a great treasure chest in which as a great treasure chest in which as a great treasure chest in which drawers could be placed to be filled.

The verses, straous as the discover the heterogeneousness, and is shading of variegated coloration he so carefully had searched through, the statisfied with the many currents of thought the work sets in motion for lamburgh the sparkling, the shining, the sparkling, the shining, the sport in Europe.

"It was in the year 1800 that Goethe, while suffering from recurrent indisstations therefore unaffected through, the while suffering from recurrent indisstations." It is book it may have been permissible therefore unaffected through, the daming the sparkling, the shining, the sparkling, the shining, the sparkling, the shining, the sparkling that which ripples and floats to the surface—and he is right."

It is beyond signute that the Faust to the surface—and he is right."

It is beyond dispute that the Faust to the surface—and he is right."

It is beyond dispute that the Faust to Goethe and his post in Europe.

"Byron's heroic effort to give personal and economic ald to the strain and the statistic of the surface—and he is right."

It is beyond dispute that the Faust to Goethe and his post in Europe.

The verses, strious as it with the earn count of the shading of variegated coloration he so carefully had searched through, the daming the sparkling, the shining, the sparkling that which ripples and floats to the unaffected through. The wtree extends the follows.

The verses, strious as the shading of variegated coloration he so carefully had searched through. The wtree extends the power.

The verses, trous the verses the head to discover the heterogenousness, and is shading of variegated colorat





Martyred Belgium, as portrayed by an Italian sculptor.

site them was the witness stand. The central figure is chained to a cross, the child on the left hiding its arms, from which the hands have been amputated; the child at the all are missing, and Mephistopheles his wrath makes her miserably signor Chiattone, a pupil or the Academy of Milan, has given in life size his idea of the German invasite them was the witness stand. The Judge, pale and aristocratic, was a lot of mummery and the silliest of nonsense. But it is curious what a sweltering in robe and wig, as was right clutching a broken sword. Dominant is the eagle of mythology, its wings bearing "Deutschland ueber also the counsel for the defence beside his green best of nonsense. Such the enclosure, and opposition with the enclosure, and opposition with the makes of the enclosure, and opposition with the counsel for the enclosure, and opposition with the counself for the enclosure, and opposition with the

Two Studies by a Woman in the Island of Jamaica A GREAT crowd was gathering before the court house in Port Antonio composed of colored people of all the shades known to the full hands in the world, of which he was a world which he world.

that section of Jamaica. The sun was supremely conscious. The Judge blazing hot and the leaves of a great and the prosecuting attorney, a keen breadfruit tree in the courtyard witted, heavily built man, were the scarcely stirred in the almost motion- only white persons in the room beblow up the Conde. But as I spoke
Down a narrow side street, hardly
There was a stir when the defendwider than an alley, one caught a ant came in, for besides being a witch
with the gentle colored women at the black guardsman, who had been quietly

strictly forbidden in Jamaica. tain!" Mahom It was now almost time for court more smiles.

where the benches were already nearly both when the common law wife had and I have never seen anything so fully obeying my instructions as to filed with "cullud pussons," and the finally rebelled against her tyranny impressively clean. air was stifling. I stood near the and extertion. All this Naomi exrails where I could see and hear all plained with tears and quiet misery. | was made as to my nationality. "I am interest turned and retraced my footthat was going on and at the same In her pretended treatment the an American." I replied time watch the people continually obeah woman had manipulated grave "Where do you live?" coming in. Presently the Judge ar- dirt, rum and water, all of which had rived, and the black sheriff opening to be used with certain magic forcourt with the musical "Oyez! Oyez! mulas; and when the patient failed Oyez! God save the King!" the trial to improve she declared that there

sweltering in robe and wig, as was tremendous influence the woman had also the counsel for the defence beside his green bee of papers. The was hard to procure witnesses against

refreshing glimpse of the blue waters she was the most amazing spectacle with the gentle colored women at the black guardsman, who had been quietly of the Caribbean, where little picka- imaginable. Shiry black, fat, tremenninnies were playing under the palm dous and villainous, she was arrayed was surprised and shocked to find how authority to the small Italian: "She from head to foot in vivid pink.

had started out for a morning About her throat was a profusion of through this wicked practice and how it. The Italian sullenly retreated and walk along the shore, but was di-white cotton lace, and an immense dense was their ignorance. They I hastened en with thanks, verted by the crowd and concluded panama hat was decorated with broad either could not or would not under-A vessel near at hand to remain and witness the trial, which pink ribbon and gorgeous flowers. I heard was to be that of a woman There were some broad smiles as she I heard was to be that of a woman There were some broad smiles as she accused of practising obeah. This species of witchcraft is peculiar to the ered over the assembly, for she must West Indies, and I was glad of the have weighed full 300 pounds. Her opportunity to see and hear some- mesk consort sitting beside her was thing of it. It seems that the obeah completely overwhelmed, and when it cult is a remnant of a primitive ser- became necessary for some reason or are at home in Kingston harbor. Except for this the shipyards were pent worship and its present prac- other for her to speak to her lawyer, Jamaica, the Descartes, Chagres, Conde, orderly and clean and so restfully tioners deal in the black arts to the the Judge, seeing the great mass of the Sydney and Melbourne slipping quiet in comparison with our "Amerextent of their limited ability, result- pink beginning to rise, said hastily; ing in all kinds of trickery and knay- "I think in this instance it would be to their navel of the bine Caribbean."

The long is the bine Caribbean. ery and illicit money getting. It is better for Mahomet to go to the moun-

favorable weather to see the coast ess of the black art. The first witness of Cuba far to the north. The against her was the common law wife crater about one of the finest harbors to be seen here and there busily emcrowd grew larger every moment; of the sick man, Mr. Doyley, for whose in the world. men, women and children gathering cure she had agreeed to practise her Hot and dusty as was the day the ployed in various parts of the vesin little groups on the portico, at gentle healing arts. She had charged the gates, or under the spreading trees these people extortionate sums for her in the courtyard. The women were ministrations, collecting from them as deep through the white dust of the large undergon the ignominy of a deep through the white dust of the large looked as rejuctantly clean. dressed in bright colored prints, pink much as 10 shillings at a time, and blue predominating, as is the cus- had ultimately cheated them out of £9; pier. The gates were guarded by two tom in this part of the island, where people from the East Indies abound.

The narrow, wooden stairs of the building led to a large upper room, feelings of the community against

In the space ruled off for the court nine, interfering with her work. She were seated at wide tables the counsel and her male companion thereupon for the defence and the prosecuting took up their residence with the attorney, the Judge enthroned a little Doyleys, in order to be on hand and above them. Jury and defendant oc-combat the enemy, and incidentally cupied a long row of chairs around obtain board and lodging free of two sides of the enclosure, and oppo-site them was the witness stand. a lot of mummery and the sillest of

either could not or would not under-stand the cheap trickery and charla-ing sacks and sacks of yellow corn

tain!" Mahomet did, and there were One scorching hot April day the the great guns fore and aft looked Conde was lying at the pier, gaunt and grim and murderous under the peaceto convene, but as yet Lawyer Jacquet. The woman was formally accused the presiding Judge, had not started of practising obeah, and giving her down the mountainside from his name as "Edith Cooke," seemed to be beautiful big house at the sum-very well pleased with the situation with from which it is possible in a convenient of the sum-very well pleased with the situation of the peace of the plant they had yet taken their toll of death or what terrible part they may yet they had yet taken their toll of death or what terrible part they may yet they had yet taken their toll of death or what terrible part they may yet they had yet taken their toll of death or what terrible part they had yet taken the mit, from which it is possible in and her important role as high priest- green mountains, cloud capped, sloped The sailors' wash hung in long dingy

Asking permission to pass, inquiry

"In New York city." Where were you born?"

Near Natchez, in Mississippi. "Yes, I know." said the great glant

detly; "that is in Mexico." "Ne, but near there," I replied, and "Yes," I said without changing count with grave acquiescence permission tenance, "I dare say there are, but was given me to pass. I asked how I have never been there." near I might approach the vessel. "As near as you wish," said he courteously, quietly appended. "only be very careful not to fall in the water."

So, hurrying in, I had not gone but a few yards before I was intercepted beat a hasty retreat, altogether de-by a greasy Italian who distrusted the lighted with my unique experience appearance of my tourist garb and na- and thoroughly undeserved complitive grass handbag, I showed him ment.

The long steel line of the battleship

I stood alone on the pier not ten not falling in the water; and after drinking my fill of wonderment and steps inland. As the Italian appeared still grim and suspicious the guardsman of the gate came forward to meet me and escort me out. Quite calmly and dispassionately he looked down from his imposing height and remarked: "Pretty girls in Mexico!"

"Pretty girls in Mississippi," he

"Yes." I answered quite pleasantly, "and throughout all the South, I believe." And with smiling thanks I